

Protest strike hits Karachi

KARACHI (AP) — Parts of Pakistan's largest city were brought to a standstill by a general strike on Sunday. At least 15 people were shot in clashes with police during protests against the imprisonment of city councilors. Hundreds of shops, businesses, schools and government offices were hit by the strike to protest the arrest last week of Mayor Abdur Sattar Afghani and 96 members of the council. Public transport came to a halt in some areas. Thousands of people stayed away from work and school. But the strike attempt appeared in full shun of its aim of imposing a complete shutdown of the city, with a population of seven million. Trains, the docks, major industries and outlying parts of the city were barely affected. Protesters clashed repeatedly with police in some of Karachi's central districts. Gangs of protesters pelted passing vehicles with rocks, set fire to tyres in the streets and blocked roads with barricades. Riot police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters, launched baton charges and opened fire with shotguns on several occasions, according to eyewitnesses. Hospital officials, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said 15 people were hurt.



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King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein visited the Prime Ministry on Sunday and met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The King passed directives to the prime minister during the meeting.

Rifai meets envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met at his office Sunday evening with Bahrain's newly-appointed ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim. Later he met separately with Pakistani Ambassador Saghir Hussein Syed, Romanian Ambassador Teodor Cuman, Kuwaiti Ambassador Ibrahim Al Bahi and also Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohamad Mheilan.

Israel jails 8 Arabs

TEL AVIV (R) — Four Arabs convicted of planning to attack the Israeli defence ministry in Tel Aviv were sentenced by a military court on Sunday to prison terms of between 12 and 20 years. Four others found guilty of belonging to the Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were jailed for seven years. The eight were captured when Israeli gunboats sank a ship carrying suspected Palestinian commandos off the Israeli coast in April 1985. Twenty other men were believed drowned.

Spanish and Saudi defence chiefs meet

RIYADH (AP) — Spanish Defence Minister Mariano Serra and Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan discussed military cooperation between their two countries in an official round of talks here Sunday. Sources disclosed that among the topics raised was an offer by Madrid to supply armoured personnel carriers and armoured vehicles to the kingdom, and that Saudi Arabia would study the offer.

Irish premier assails Israel over Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald accused Israel on Sunday of hindering U.N. peace-keeping efforts in southern Lebanon. In an interview with an Israeli newspaper he said: "What worries me very much is the Israeli refusal to allow the peace-keeping force to carry out its security activities in the area under the mandate granted it."

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood quits election partnership

CAIRO (R) — The Muslim Brotherhood, which won seven seats in Egypt's parliament by running on the Wafd party ticket in 1984, said Sunday it was breaking with its election partner, the national Middle East News Agency said. The announcement was made by Seif-El-Islam Hassan Al Banna who said the brotherhood would be running in April's general elections on a joint ticket with three other opposition groups. The Muslim Brotherhood circumvented a 30-year-old ban on its activities by allying itself with the right-wing Wafd, which won 57 of the 448 seats in the People's Assembly (parliament) in 1984.

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Israeli troops shoot and wound 8 Gaza protesters

7 soldiers injured in West Bank protests

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Eight Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers and seven Israeli troopers were injured in stone-throwing as protests continued in the Israeli-occupied territories for the seventh day against the siege by militiamen of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said eight Palestinians were wounded, one of them seriously, when Israeli soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Gaza City. An eyewitness quoted by AP said the clash in Gaza began when students from the Jaffa Secondary School marched down the city's main street, Omar Al Mukhtar.

He said troops stopped one protester and confiscated his identity card, and then "the crowd started screaming and pushing and the soldiers opened fire. It was like a battle." He asked not to be named.

The witness, as well as the press service, said five of the injured were admitted to Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. Two others were at the city's Shifa Hospital, and another was moved to an Israeli hospital in serious condition with abdominal wounds,

Iraqi jets raid Tehran and 11 other cities

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday its warplanes raided Tehran and 11 other towns and cities to make Iran's leaders understand "that insistence on war means more destruction for Iran."

A high command communiqué said that Iraqi warplanes carried out destructive raids on Tehran and the holy city of Qom at 11 p.m. Saturday night.

Iraqi aircraft have raided Tehran 10 times during the past four days and Qom more than 25 times since Iran launched its cross-border offensive on southern Iraq on Jan. 9.

Sunday's communiqué said Iraqi jets raided the western town of Aiswan, 40 kilometres east of the border town of Sumar, for the first time.

Other towns raided were Khorramabad and Kubdash in the west, and Shabpur in the northwest near the Turkish border, it said.

Iraqi jets also raided the towns of Jwara, Doroud and Qudareh, the communiqué said.

A later communiqué said warplanes also raided the Iranian towns of Tabriz, Dezful and Pol-Dokhtar.

The Iraqi jets flew 105 sorties on Sunday and one aircraft was lost, the second in the past 24 hours and the fourth since Jan. 9.

Two people were killed and 19 others wounded in Basra by Iranian artillery shelling, the communiqué added.

Iraqi warplanes have flown about 200 sorties against more than 35 Iranian towns and cities in the past month as part of Iraq's policy to use its air force superiority to bring Iran to the negotiation table.

The vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, said Saturday: "Iraqi air raids will be stepped up in the forthcoming period to cover all Iranian territory unless Iran listens to Iraq's appeal for peace."

The Iranian news agency (IRNA) said an Iraqi war plane was shot down Sunday by Iranian guardsmen over the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

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AP photographer Max Nash saw troops bring 15 Palestinian boys out of the school and order them to lie on the ground with their hands behind their necks.

They were then loaded onto a truck and taken away. One boy who resisted was picked up by

troops and thrown into the vehicle.

A television crew which disregarded orders against taking photographs was detained by soldiers but later released.

Troops also fired tear-gas to disperse a demonstration in Nablus by high school girls and another by students in the town of Al Bireh, the press service and witnesses said.

At Hebron University, one of four large Palestinian universities in the West Bank, troops sealed off the road leading to the campus and shut down the school for the day following student protests there on Saturday, the press service said.

Earlier Sunday, an explosion occurred near a major Israeli hospital in what police described as an attempted car bombing.

A police spokeswoman said there were no Israeli casualties in the explosion, which occurred in a car near the Meir Hospital in the town of Kfar Saba at 6:10

pm.

In Nablus, the largest city of the occupied West Bank, soldiers detained 15 students at the Kadri

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Pollard helped Israel in bombing PLO base in Tunis, report says

Convicted spy also provided secret data on Syrian, Iraqi and Pakistani programmes

TEL AVIV (AP) — Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel, provided key data that helped Israel's air force evade detection and bomb the Tunis headquarters of the PLO, a newspaper reported Sunday.

According to an investigative report which appeared simultaneously in the Jerusalem Post and the Washington Post, Pollard was a master spy who passed on very important information and not a small-time agent with limited access to U.S. secrets. He also handed over:

— Maps and satellite pictures of Iraqi and Syrian weapons factories and storage facilities, including the layout of eight Iraqi chemical factories.

— Information about Soviet ship movements and arms deliveries to Syria and other Arab states, including information on SS-21 ground-to-ground missiles and SA-5 anti-aircraft missiles.

— A satellite photo of Pakistan's nuclear facility outside Islamabad and an alleged Pakistani programme to build atomic bombs.

The U.S. government, citing reasons of national security, has refused to divulge what information Pollard passed on to Israel. The Post quotes U.S. officials as saying Pollard gave more than 1,000 classified documents to Israel, some hundred of pages long.

The Jerusalem Post, a daily

close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's Labour Party, said that despite official Israeli stance that Pollard was part of an unauthorised operation, Israeli officials speak of him as one of the Jewish state's most valuable spies ever.

The newspaper said Israeli handlers compared him to Israel's most famous spy, Eli Cohen who gained access to the top echelons of the Syrian government before he was caught and hanged. As a result of their esteem, it said, Pollard was given an Israeli passport in the name of Danny Cohen.

Yossi Ahimeir, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, declined to comment on specifics of the report.

But he said, "we still say that this whole affair was a mistake from our side, a mistake of some people ... we regret it and expressed our sorrow to the American government."

The newspaper report, dated from Washington by its correspondent Wolf Blitzer, said Pollard had top secret clearances and a career card that allowed him to take information out of archives without being checked

by security guards.

Citing both U.S. and Israeli sources, the report said Pollard gave Israel findings of U.S. reconnaissance over Tunisia, including a description of a building that served as headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He also passed on information about ship movements in the Mediterranean and Libya's anti-aircraft defence system.

One unnamed Israeli official was quoted as saying Pollard's information "made our life much easier" in carrying out the air strike in which about 70 Palestinians and Tunisians were killed on Oct. 1, 1985.

The U.S. government was sharply criticised by Western allies and Arab states for supporting the raid and Israel's use of U.S.-made F16 and F15 fighters on the mission.

The United Nations Security Council condemned the attack as an act of aggression, and the PLO charged the United States of giving military assistance to Israel to carry out the raid.

Pollard, 32, was arrested outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 21, 1985, and pleaded guilty to espionage. His wife, 26-year-old Anne Henderson Pollard, pleaded guilty to lesser charges of unauthorised possession of classified documents.

Both are to be sentenced March 4.

Iran arms deal said to be part of a wider covert programme in U.S.

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Arms sales to Iran and covert aid to Nicaraguan contra rebels were part of a wider Reagan administration programme to conduct private foreign policy initiatives, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper, quoting present and former government officials, said the secret policies were run by a covert arm of a programme called "Project Democracy" created in 1982. The project, through its National Endowment for Democracy, openly granted government money to foreign book publishers, labour unions and other institutions, the newspaper said.

President Reagan spoke about the programme in speeches to the British parliament and elsewhere, saying it was a means to spread the influence of democratic institutions. But within weeks of Mr. Reagan's "Project Democracy" speech in London, the paper reported, the administration had

decided that the project needed a covert side as well.

While Congress appropriated funds for the covert wing, it was understood from the start that most of the funds were to come from non-government sources.

"As it turned out, the covert side of "Project Democracy" apparently was also funded by foreign governments and, perhaps, by wealthy private individuals," the newspaper said.

The newspaper said the covert side was sending privately raised money to the U.S.-backed contras fighting the leftist Sandinista government and was involved in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The covert arm came under the control of former National Security Council aide Oliver North, the newspaper said, and was not even known to top officials of "Project Democracy's" public side.

The newspaper said "Project Democracy's" covert arm operated outside normal government channels and over the last four years grew into a "parallel fore-

ign policy apparatus — complete with its own communications systems, secret envoys, leased ships and airplanes, offshore bank accounts and corporations."

The covert effort was an outgrowth of the administration's frustration at its inability to push Congress and the foreign policy bureaucracy to "embrace the Reagan doctrine" of supporting anti-communist rebellions, the newspaper said.

The Tower Commission, the special White House panel investigating the NSC, has found that "Project Democracy" carried out a wide array of activities, but investigators do not know the full scope of the actions, the Times said.

The Times said congressional investigators told it that after Congress restricted aid to the contras in 1984, Lieutenant-Colonel North and other officials established a labyrinth of companies, bank accounts and private employees to aid the rebels.

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UNRWA food stolen in Beirut

VIENNA (R) — Unidentified men have seized food belonging to a United Nations relief organisation in South Lebanon, saying it will be taken to the besieged Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp, a U.N. official said Sunday.

Terry Davidson, spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, also said an UNRWA lorry convoy was seeking safe passage to take 100 tonnes of supplies to the camp, near the southern port of Tyre.

UNRWA stores held at Sidon, south of Beirut, had been taken away Saturday night but no details were immediately available of who the men were.

Witnesses have reported starvation conditions at the camp, which is home for 22,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Davidson told Reuters the stores held up to 50 tonnes of food normally used for routine relief work and feeding UNRWA workers. However, the agency had already decided to divert the supplies to Rashidiyah, which had been blockaded for four months by Amal militiamen.

"They just swiped our stuff ... we just hope the food turns up in Rashidiyah," he said.

Mr. Davidson said six UNRWA lorries had left Beirut loaded mostly with flour for the camp and had stopped at the village of Siblin. An UNRWA official had gone ahead to Sidon, to negotiate safe passage for the lorries for the next stage of the journey through territory held by Palestinians and Lebanese militiamen.

China voices concern

China said Sunday it was deeply concerned about the plight of Palestinian refugees in camps in Lebanon and urged that they be given daily necessities.

The New China News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that China hoped the conflicting parties would reach an immediate and overall ceasefire and resolve their differences through friendly consultation so as to end the bloody incident and restore normality to Lebanon.

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Somalia says 300 Ethiopian soldiers were killed in latest clashes on border

BURAO, Somalia (R) — A windswept plain littered with bodies is the scene of the latest clash in the Horn of Africa where Somalia says it killed more than 300 Ethiopian troops.

The north-west Somalia battlefield, visited by reporters from the Somali capital, Mogadishu, saw renewed fighting last week between pro-Western Somalia and Marxist Ethiopia. The corps wore the olive-green fatigues of the Ethiopian army and the area was littered with knocked out tanks.

Abandoned communications equipment lay in a pile 20 kilometres inside Somalia.

Ethiopia has made no comment on the fighting. There has been no explanation of what started it, although there has been increased activity in the area by rebels opposed to Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre.

Somali Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Samantar called on the Ethiopian government on Saturday to declare where it stands on the future of peace talks between the two countries.

Mr. Samantar, quoted by Mogadishu Radio, told a meeting in the Somali capital that Somalia's stand had not changed since the peace talks began last year.

"What is required is for the Ethiopian government to declare its stand towards the peace negotiations ... the aggression by Ethiopia against Somalia is contrary to the on-going peace talks," he said.

Military sources said 22 Ethiopian tanks took part in the attack

and 11 of them were either destroyed or captured. Burned-out tanks and lorries were still smouldering when we arrived in the border area. They were clearly marked with Ethiopian army insignia.

The rebels kidnapped 10 French medical aid workers from nearby Ting Wajale refugee settlement last month and freed them in Ethiopia two weeks later.

Diplomats say Ethiopia has complained of Somali incursions into Ethiopian territory, but there has been no sign of a new build-up of tension between the two countries.

Somali troops captured a large area of Ethiopia's ethnically-Somali Ogaden province in the 1977-78 desert war, but were driven out by Ethiopian forces allegedly backed by Cuban troops and Soviet military advisers.

Ethiopia still holds two border areas, Balambale and Galdogob, after seizing them three years ago.

Both sides had seemed to be moving towards peace. President Siad Barre met Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in the Red Sea port of Djibouti 13 months ago. Mr. Siad Barre said last month that he planned to visit Addis Ababa soon for more talks with Mr. Mengistu.

The sources quoted by Reuter said the ministers were expected to approve the pact, which will then be submitted for ratification by the council's foreign ministers due to meet in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Omani Interior Minister Sayed Badr Ibn Saud Ibn Hareb was quoted meanwhile as saying the strategy was based on a number of ideals and principles and Islamic law "characterised by tolerance and binding ties between GCC members".

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara reiterated to reporters Saturday night the security of the Gulf was the collective responsibility of the region.

Economic integration

In Dubai, the GCC opened a seminar on Saturday on "integrated planning" as part of a quest for a common market in the region.

Mr. Bishara said the five-year-old economic agreement "was progressing satisfactorily."

The initial phase of the economic agreement is scheduled to be operational by March 1, less than a fortnight away.

Mr. Bishara told reporters that there were no obstacles to the implementation of the joint economic programme which was to be fully operational by the mid-1990s.

GCC working on final draft of security strategy

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Interior ministers from the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began talks on Sunday to agree the final draft of a unified strategy on regional security.

The ministers declined to discuss details of the proposed strategy, put together at a recent meeting of interior under-secretaries from the GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Informal sources, however, told Reuter the plan was specifically tailored to get round reservations by Kuwait over issues such as the theoretical right of any GCC state to pursue criminal acts for an unspecified distance inside other member states.

Kuwait has so far refused to sign a joint GCC security pact agreed in 1982 saying some clauses infringe on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Senior council member Saudi Arabia already has bilateral security accords with its GCC allies except for Kuwait, which has been the target of several bomb attacks and sabotage plots over the past three years.

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Qadhafi rejects 'hostile regime' in N'djamena

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said

Libya would not accept the installation of a hostile regime in Chad, Libyan Television reported.

The television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Saturday night that Colonel Qadhafi made the comment in an interview with French quarterly *Journal Politique Internationale*.

He was quoted as saying Libya would not accept, "regardless of any justification, the installation of a hostile regime in Chad which will be used by imperialism to destabilise the security and

Tawjihi results out today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has prepared the lists of final results for the first term of the tawjihi examination taken last month and the ministry will announce the results today. A ministry spokesman said that students can go to their schools as usual and receive their results.

According to Mr. Odeh Al Najdawi, assistant director of examinations at the Ministry of Education which organised the examinations, the results of the first term were generally good and of similar standard to the previous years' marks.

A total of 51,124 tawjihi students sat for the eight examination sessions last month in the scientific, literary, industrial, agricultural, nursing, postal, commercial and hotel management streams.

Government revises prices of units at Abu Nuseir

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has revised the prices of housing units at Abu Nuseir housing estate, west of Amman, and decided on a number of measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments. Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh announced on Sunday.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Zawaideh said that beneficiaries will not be requested to pay an advance of 10 per cent of the total cost of the housing units. This means they are now exempted from paying between JD 2,317 to JD 5,460 as a pledge of their commitment to paying the total cost and purchase the units.

According to Mr. Zawaideh, the government considers the beneficiaries not to be responsible for the additional services that were introduced to the housing estate and will therefore not demand that they pay these costs. He said the treasury will pay the cost of these services, which amounted to JD 30 million.

The Cabinet on Saturday evening announced the following measures in response to recommendations by the Housing Corporation:

— Beneficiaries will pay the original price set by the Housing Corporation before the introduction of the additional services;

— They will be required to pay only the cost of the units spread over 30 instead of 25 years at an annual interest rate of 5.5 per cent;

— Beneficiaries will not be required to pay 10 per cent of the units' cost in advance unless they wish to do so;

— The treasury will cover the difference between the cost of the units as originally announced and the higher actual cost when the project was completed;

— Only those beneficiaries who committed themselves to purchasing the units will be able to benefit from these measures and the 10 per cent of the total cost that they had paid will be considered as instalments paid in advance;

— The remaining units which have not been sold will be offered to employees in the public sector in three months from now.

In the press conference, Mr. Zawaideh said that the Housing Corporation has built six schools and laid electricity cables and water, telephone and transport networks within the housing estate. He said that it has also set up shopping centres and installed a wastewater treatment plant as well as providing street lighting and central heating to all the housing units.

The Housing Corporation, he said, built a road to link the housing estate with the main two-lane road going to Yajouz highway and added that there are plans for including the housing estate in the Greater Amman region so that it can benefit from more services and facilities.

At present, the Housing Corporation is building side roads, retaining walls and planting some 50,000 trees on the housing estate, Mr. Zawaideh continued.

Earlier, Mr. Zawaideh had said that agreement was reached with the Health Ministry to open a health clinic and that another agreement has been reached with the Public Transport Corporation which will operate a regular bus service for the benefit of residents at the Abu Nuseir housing estate.

Only half of the land allotted for the housing estate has been used for the construction of the 3,500 housing units at Abu Nuseir and the vacant units were earlier reported to be available for sale to the public and the land to be sold to expatriates for building their own homes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez calls Lower House to session

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez has summoned the House for a meeting on Tuesday Feb. 17. The House's administrative committee said it will meet on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Zuhair Thounan Al Hussein. The committee members will be reviewing a number of subjects referred to it by the House.

Mineral exports increase in 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fertilisers, potash and phosphate via Aqaba port increased in 1986 over 1985 exports, according to Ports Corporation sources. The sources added that during 1986 Jordan exported 552,323 tonnes of fertilisers, 1,125,216 tonnes of potash and 5,197,665 tonnes of phosphates compared to 519,542 tonnes of fertilisers, 898,335 tonnes of potash and 4,609,511 tonnes of phosphate exported during 1985.

Syrian agri-engineers arrive today

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Syrian Agricultural Engineers Association is due here Monday on a four-day visit to Jordan and for talks with officials and members of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association. The delegation, to be led by Dr. Yahya Bakour, the association's president, will discuss ways to bolster cooperation between agricultural engineers in Jordan and Syria and prospects for a programme to exchange expertise between the associations of both countries. The delegation will also tour a number of agricultural projects, industrial concerns and several other institutions.

Industry chambers reshuffles board

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry on Sunday appointed Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan as deputy board chairman of the chamber to succeed Mr. Zaid Shish'a who resigned his post. The chamber's board, which met Saturday evening under the chairmanship of Mr. Isam Budier, also appointed Mr. Abbas Al Nabulsi as a board member. Mr. Khaled Kanaan has been appointed as the chamber's secretary to succeed Mr. Abu Hassan.

Tunisian transport team due Feb. 23

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Transport is due here on Feb. 23 for a week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Transport on strengthening and promoting bilateral relations in transport fields. The delegation will also explore the possibility of benefiting from Jordan's experience for application in organising the land transport sector in Tunisia.

Man shoots and wounds another

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 40-year-old man identified by the police as H.M.M. shot and wounded another 30-year-old man identified as N.A.A., in North Marga over trade differences between them, according to preliminary investigations carried out by the public security forces. The sources added that the wounded man was taken to hospital and was reported to be in a stable condition.

Martial arts, humour and cartoons from Japan

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Movie-goers interested in oriental cinema will have an opportunity to see a different kind of cinema when three Japanese films are screened at the Royal Cultural Centre later this week. The Japanese embassy's film show is for people interested in the Japanese sense of humour, martial arts and animated cartoons.

The first film, "Fall Guy," is a 1982 comedy which takes the viewers into the world of glamourous, yet farcical cinema life of Japan. The story is about three actors and one actress whose lives are comically intertwined.

Ginshiro is a superstar who gets actress Konatsu pregnant, but he throws the responsibility on Yasu. Yasu does not mind marrying Konatsu as he would do anything to please Ginshiro.

Meanwhile, Ginshiro is preoccupied with a threat to his star-dom. He is worried that a new actor on the cinema scene, Tachibana, is overshadowing him. So Ginshiro tries to regain his declining popularity in the movie he is filming in which there is a very dangerous scene. None of the stuntmen are willing to risk their lives but Ginsiro's loyal admirer, Yasu, comes to the rescue and

takes the fall while Konatsu gives birth to the baby.

"Fall Guy," directed by Fukao Kunji, will be screened on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the main theatre of the RCC. All the films are subtitled in Arabic.

Strange goings on in a Samurai clan

On Feb. 19, also at 7 p.m., is a black and white 1960s classic, "Sanjuro." This is a story of a Samurai clan which is led by a corrupt master. The nine Samurais of the clan think that chamberlain Mutsuda is behind all the depravity. However, a roaming and masterless Samurai, Tsubaki Sanjuro, tells the clan that superintendant Kikui is the one who is the actual oppressor.

Sanjuro sets off to save the nine young men from the superintendent's ruthless guards. At the same time he tries to find the chamberlain who has been kidnapped by them. Sanjuro and the nine Samurais pursue a violent adventure — where lives are lost — to clean up the corruption in the once-respectable clan.

Akira Kurosawa, the director of Sanjuro, is well-known in Japanese cinema and has won several international awards for his films.

Emergency supply fails to alleviate camp's plight

(Continued from page 1)

canned goods. The convoy was escorted by Iranian officials in an embassy car.

An Amal representative at a meeting in Tyre attended by a senior Iranian mediator said Amal had decided to withdraw its fighters from a side entrance to allow access to Rashidieh, under siege since Sept. 30.

One Palestinian faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, issued a statement thanking the Iranians for the relief supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh, but said they would only last two or three days.

Amal also allowed 32 seriously wounded Palestinians in the Rashidieh camp to be evacuated.

A militia statement said that beginning Sunday, the 30,000 residents of Rashidieh would be

Prince Sultan ends visit after talks with prime minister, Sharif Zaid

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Sultan Ibn Salman Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia left Amman at the end of his two-day visit to Jordan during which he presented His Majesty King Hussein a medal commemorating the 1986 space flight by the U.S. space shuttle Discovery which carried Prince Sultan as a crew member.

In a statement before his departure, Prince Sultan paid tribute to the King's leadership and to Jordan's role in serving pan-Arab causes.

Prince Sultan said he appreciated and supported King Hussein's call on Arabs to lend more interests to science and technology to help them catch up with advanced nations in different fields.

Earlier on Sunday, Prince Sultan met Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in the presence of Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Sulait.

He later met Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker in the presence of the Saudi ambassador and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Prince Sultan



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai holds a meeting with Prince Sultan Ibn Salman Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Sunday (Petra photo)

was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Also Sunday, Prince Sultan called at the University of Jordan and was briefed by its president, Abdul Salam Al Majali, on the university's development. Prince Sultan toured the campus and visited the library. He was accompanied on the visit by the Saudi ambassador. Also on Sunday Prince Sultan

visited the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division where he was received by the division's commander and high-ranking officers.

Prince Sultan was briefed on the Karameh battle in the Jordan Valley area. The guest visited the monument of the Karameh battle and the King Hussein Bridge. At the end of the visit, the division's commander presented the division's shield to Prince Sultan as a commemorative gift.

Austria negotiating its inclusion in Jordan's 24-hour mail delivery service

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Negotiations are underway between the Jordanian and Austrian governments to introduce the public-run 24-hour mail delivery service between Vienna and Amman, Mansour Ibn Tarif, under secretary at the Ministry of Communications said Sunday.

Mr. Ibn Tarif said that for the time being the ministry does not plan to make its services available between the Kingdom and countries of the Eastern Bloc since the volume of postal correspondence in general and business mail in particular was very low.

He explained that the ministry also got negative feedback from countries of the Arab Maghreb.

So far, the ministry's fast mail delivery service, launched last July, covers 18 Arab and foreign destinations.

The volume of mail transactions, protocol agreements and other countries' responses to ministry's demands were three major factors pertaining to the inauguration of the express mail service between the Kingdom and other destinations. Operations of

incoming and out-going express mail services are handled by the Central Post Office in downtown Amman. Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national airline, is carrying the mail to and from Jordan.

Complaints

Describing the service as "very reliable and of high quality," Mr. Ibn Tarif refuted allegations that fast mail delivery to France often took more than 24 hours to reach its destination.

Three members of the public

had earlier called the Jordan Times to state that some of the Royal Jordanian's staff were not punctual in delivering letters and packages sent via Jordan's 24-hour mail service. Usually mail distribution in foreign and Arab countries is done through the Royal Jordanian's offices.

"We are always ready to receive any complaints and to look into their source of origin," said Mr. Ibn Tarif, urging all members of the public who were dissatisfied with the ministry's express mail service to contact the concerned officials.

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In something of a scoop, the Baccalaureate School Theatre this week is showing the recently released film version of Verdi's opera "Otello." Directed by the acclaimed and controversial Franco Zeffirelli, "Otello" has been specially flown in by the Italian Embassy here in Amman for this its first showing in the Middle East. The film, which was first screened at the Montreal Film Festival in August of last year received some highly favourable reviews, the common theme of which was that the film will not only appeal to scholars and fans of opera but to people who have never heard of the opera before.

One reviewer writing for "The Listener" said: "Otello was a feast for the eyes as well as the ears as the... film is in constant restless motion with hardly a scene allowed to establish itself in stillness." He concluded that: "It's the (film) a virtuous piece; wonderful, breathtaking at times and altogether excessive."

The first ever performance of Verdi's original opera took place in February 1887, a hundred years ago almost to the day of the showing of the film here in Amman on Friday. Verdi based his opera on that of Shakespeare's play "Othello" which is a story of love, jealousy and destruction.

Set in Cyprus at the end of the Fifteenth Century, it traces the descent of the Moor, Othello, from supreme happiness to utter despair and suicide caused solely by the evil misdoings of his lieutenant, Iago. Placido Domingo takes the role of the ill-fated Moor, while Katia Ricciarelli plays Desdemona, the wrongfully accused wife whom he murders in fit of insane jealousy.

In his adaptation of the opera, Zeffirelli changed the original

story, doing to "Verdi what Verdi did to Shakespeare," and as Zeffirelli says: "Cinema is an art, and opera is an art so putting the two together is not easy."

Carmen in a different setting

In conjunction with the showing of "Otello," the Baccalaureate theatre will also be screening Francesco Rosi's film version of Bizet's opera "Carmen." This much-loved masterpiece tells the story of the beautiful and sensual Spanish gypsy girl, Carmen, whose fickleness brings about her own destruction and that of the men who love her. Rosi made Carmen, "in intimate terms with the social and cultural reality that brought about and conditioned the story in the first place."

"I have based my film," Rosi says, "on the quest for creative autonomy no matter how restricted by a former creativity, in this case a very powerful one, that of Bizet's music, structured with clear and precise directions by the composer himself."

Thus Rosi scoured the Spanish countryside to find the right places and faces that would give shape to the shadows of his imagination. The resulting film is a superb version of the opera and one that has been enjoyed and praised by many since the film was first released.

Carmen, which is being sponsored by the French Cultural Centre, can be seen on Thursday February 19 at 7.30 at the Baccalaureate theatre. "Otello" can be seen on the following evening, Friday, February 20, at the same time and place. Tickets, at JD 1, (750 fils for students or JD 1½ for both films) are obtainable from the French Cultural Centre, Istiklal in Shmeisani and from Sweet Supermarket. Both films are being screened with the technical assistance of the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Jordan, Mauritania sign agreement on scientific and cultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Mauritania on Sunday signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the cultural, technical, scientific and information fields.

Under the agreement, both countries agree to work towards unifying their educational syllabi, especially in the subjects of Arab history and geography, and will offer one another scholarships for study at higher educational institutions.

Conducting joint cultural work,

bolstering bilateral cooperation in vocational and technical fields

and launching cooperation in the publication of books and magazines, in addition to holding seminars and training courses related to education and culture and organising cultural festivals and sports events.

Romanian parliamentary delegation arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member Romanian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a four-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament.

The delegation is led by Mr. Nicolai Giosan, speaker of Romania's National Assembly, who made a statement upon arrival paying tribute to Romanian-Jordanian relations.

The volume of trade between the two countries, the economic links and the joint projects manifest the strong ties between the Jordanian and Romanian peoples, Mr. Giosan said.

During the delegation's visit, they are expected to be received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and will hold talks with Mr. Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez and other Parliament members to discuss parliamentary affairs and Middle East issues.

The delegation will also tour archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

The delegation were welcomed upon arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport by Mr. Lawzi and other officials.

Shortly after arriving in Amman, Mr. Giosan visited the Martyrs' Monument on the outskirts of Amman. He was met by senior army officers who accompanied him on a tour of the monument.

Mr. Giosan inspected items on display and was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Asked by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, about Romania's stand vis-a-vis the proposed international conference on the Middle

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Gorbachev's glasnost

MR. MIKHAIL Gorbachev's perceived need for changes both in Soviet domestic and foreign policies seems to have energised him to embark on a number of bold initiatives, deliberately straying from the beaten path of his predecessors. Soon after his accession to the Kremlin leadership, he set out to stimulate changes in the international arena. His proposal aimed at ridding the world of all nuclear stockpiles by the turn of the century has attracted universal attention. He supported this stated objective with a unilaterally declared Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests, a proposal for drastic cuts in the number of nuclear weapons and a snap mini-summit with the U.S. President Ronald Reagan at Reykjavik last October. All this suggests that General Secretary Gorbachev aims at effecting a structural change in the superpower relationship which for the last forty years has remained immutably grounded on the doctrine of nuclear deterrence on which international security and peace now depend.

A good deal of Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to free the world from nuclear weapons was viewed in the West with cynicism and extreme scepticism, branding those attempts as exercises in propaganda. But what has raised eyebrows in the West more than anything else is Mr. Gorbachev's concerted effort to bring about domestic reforms in the Soviet Union. Most in the West may feel that he is about to stir a hornet's nest.

Mr. Gorbachev appears to have come down heavily on corruption in high places, drunkenness, drug abuse, autocratic management and a whole lot of other socio-politico-economic evils in the Soviet Union. He does not fault the Communist system for the existence of such evils but blames individuals well entrenched in party positions wrongly applying Communist principles to further their own selfish interests without regard for the needs of ordinary citizens. He has advocated glasnost (openness) in discussing his people's problems. He has also encouraged former dissident artists and writers to express themselves freely. He has initiated steps in freeing dissidents and prisoners of conscience from internal exile. All these are indications that there is a gradual loosening of rigidity, dogmatism and regimentation that has characterised Soviet society in the past.

What most astonishes the Western observers is perhaps Mr. Gorbachev's recent proposal to introduce the secret ballot in the election of party officials — a major initiative in his reform campaign. By this he is not about to overthrow the Communist system. His intentions are very clear. He says he wants to make members of the Communist party more efficient and committed to serve better the people and the state. He does not want to make a fetish of Communist ideology. While basically upholding Marxism-Leninism, it appears that he wants to redefine Communism and make it more relevant to the needs and demands of Soviet society in the modern world. In trying to do this, one would expect that Mr. Gorbachev has his finger on the pulse of his own people. We will have to wait; only time can tell whether or not his attempts at reforms will be crowned with success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

AI Ra'i: The continuing resistance

ANTI-Israeli demonstrations have broken out in the Syrian Golan Heights and other parts of the occupied Arab territories, proving once again that the struggle is still on for liberation and for ending Israel's occupation of Arab land. Many of the demonstrations in the Arab towns were staged to protest against continued shelling and siege imposed on the Palestinian refugees in their camps around Beirut and in South Lebanon. The Palestinians, now under the yoke of Israeli occupation, have not forgotten their kinsmen elsewhere and have risen to protest their continued sufferings. The inhabitants of the occupied territories have defied Israel's arbitrary measures and have clashed with Israeli troops in the process of expressing their feelings and their sympathy with their brethren now being starved and shelled by the Amal militia in Lebanon. In the Syrian Golan Heights the Arab inhabitants rose against the occupation authorities on the fifth anniversary of Israel's annexation of their territory. They too want to prove to the world that they reject occupation and continue their struggle for freedom. This uprising against the invaders in the Golan and the occupied Palestinian land should move the whole Arab Nation to take an all-out measure and unify its action and lift the injustice from the Arab citizens now being exposed to Israel's atrocities.

AI Dustour: Furthering democracy

AS was expected, the referendum in Egypt held three days ago showed the Egyptian people's support for the dissolution of the Egyptian People's Council prior to holding a general election in April. The people voted on this measure as proposed by the government with the intention of allowing independent personalities to run for the new election. We were not surprised to see that 90 per cent of the voters supported the dissolution of the council because the motion was supported by the government's ruling party and the opposition alike. The move came after the Egyptian people have become convinced of the need to dissolve the council which would be entrusted with the task of re-electing a new president and probably facing the possibility of re-appointing Mr. Mubarak for a second term in office. Generally speaking the move has been welcomed by the public in Egypt and as it is being looked on as government response to part of the demands made by the opposition which hopes to make more gains in the coming election. The move is also considered as a gain for the president himself who has now won further public support for his liberal policies, rarely seen in other Third World countries. We regard the changes now going on in Egypt as a move towards further enhancing the meaning of democracy which Egypt opted for under President Mubarak.

Sawt Al Shaab: Selected targets

IN the on-going war in the Gulf region, Iraq has been avoiding hitting civilian targets; and Iraqi planes have been raiding selected targets in a bid to paralyse Iran's war machine. Iraq has been keen on hitting military positions and also economic installations in order to convince the ruling regime in Tehran of the futility of the war against Iraq. In their attacks on Iranian cities, Iraqi pilots carefully select their targets because the Iraqi government and people do not want to kill civilians but aim rather to persuade the Iranian people of the need to seek peace and not war. In the battlefield, the Iraqis have been successful not only in repulsing Iranian attacks but also in deterring any future offensives; and it is now Iraq's intention to send a message to the Iranian people urging them to force their leaders to stop the war for which the Iranians themselves are paying so dearly with their lives and property. In return, the Iranian rulers who suffered defeat in the battlefield have been sending death to Iraqi cities, killing and maiming innocent civilians.

Tips for road safety

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

If you see a car coming your way and the driver is busy talking on his car telephone, please duck away and take immediate cover for who knows the driver with the telephone could be so engrossed with his conversation with his loved one or his business partner that he can no longer see you or notice your presence. Otherwise the next thing you could feel would be a big bang against your car and blood gushing out of your head and limbs.

Yet the streets of Amman and the roads and highways of Jordan are now full of such cars zooming back and forth across the municipal and rural areas of our country. One would certainly feel more comfortable and safer if the introduction of this mode of technology to Jordaniyan style of mobile life was confined to the back seat passengers of motor vehicles. Indeed many countries of the world which had introduced this good service to their respective citizenry have confined its use to the non-driver seat passengers of cars in order to avoid distracting drivers from looking where they should be: straight ahead with full concentration and undivided attention.

It does not take much imagination to realise that dialing a telephone number and engaging in conversations whether of romantic or business nature would lower considerably the attention of drivers. So, while one would welcome this transfer of technology to our midst, we should question the wisdom of its deployment in a manner and situation which could be very prejudicial to public welfare. Without much inconvenience to potential users of automobiles, concerned authorities could easily restrict the use of such telephones to such conditions as to maximise the safety of all the users of roads and highways. If the applicants for automobiles cannot afford to be chauffeured around, they would be better advised and the public more protected if they relinquish

foreseeable added luxury and convenience. One may presume that big business executives and senior governmental officials who have a pressing need for telephone communications with the outside world at all times can afford to hire chauffeurs as well. We have the right to ask them to make a choice as indeed is the case in all corners of the world which have incorporated an effective road safety policies. Let us not wait till we have a series of car accidents and fatalities on our streets and roads from negligence due to the use of auto-telephones before we see the light of day and act to stop this potential danger from continuing to roam our streets.

Another valuable and timely tip to our drivers and pedestrians, which I humbly would like to submit, concerns the STOP signs on our roads and streets. I think all of us who are using our streets for one reason or another have already painfully discovered that there is a complete and utter disrespect by all for the STOP signs. And when I say all, I mean also the traffic police. I have yet to see a traffic policeman who would stop a driver for violating the STOP sign. One gets the impression that in our road vocabulary, and practice, a STOP sign means DON'T STOP. Cars zoom pass these STOP signs unperturbed and unconcerned or bothered. And if you happen to be a driver or pedestrian who counts on the observance of that sign, you would be better advised to stop doing so forthwith and start walking and driving defensively by also ignoring the existence of the STOP signs. I wish somebody whether from the police department or even from the insurance companies who ultimately foot the bill of these stupid violations would investigate this matter and determine the connection between the rate of accidents and fatalities on our roads and streets and the utter disrespect and disregard for the STOP sign. I feel certain there is an

obvious correlation between the two phenomena and I equally feel certain that the statistics on this subject would bear me out.

A third tip that I would like to offer to people in these regards is to refrain from putting their children and infants in the front seat next to the driver. I am not just going to relate the fact that many countries prohibit putting children and infants in the front seats but I would like as well to appeal to common sense, common sense which was proven right by investigation and statistics. A child or infant does not benefit from a safety belt, presuming it is used in the first place. A sudden stop of a car could mean that the child or infant would be jerked forward against the windshield of the car with his or her head leading the impact point. It does not take much imagination to appreciate what could happen to such a child or infant. It is surprising that no one in our traffic department has thought of this point and no legislation has been enacted till now to deal with this matter. And while I am on this point on the need to provide our little ones with an added protection from ourselves, parents should be reminded that all car models have a lock system to prevent children from opening car doors while they are in motion. Legislation on this matter would be likewise in order and timely.

One can go on and on offering ideas on how to make our roads and streets safer, and the list of possible measures that could be incorporated can never be exhaustive. Authorities must continue the path that they have taken in making our roads safer. The recent decision to reintroduce the mandatory use of safety belts would become a shallow measure if we continue to ignore the other aspects of road safety. Otherwise our right hand would be taken away, what our left hand has saved.

Sudan: Mutual ignorance fuels the north-south divide

By Jill Lusk

SUDAN'S first new year since 1969 under a democratically elected government began with celebrations — the 31st anniversary of independence from Britain and Egypt. What

was not celebrated was the fact that, on the very eve of independence on January 1, 1956, war broke out in southern Sudan. That war is still being fought today. Despite 11 years of peace after the 1972 agreement, the south has suffered 20 years of war since independence. It now looks set to suffer its 21st. Though outsiders usually label this relentless conflict "civil war," northern Sudanese have lived in peace throughout. It is the national army which, in the south, fights rebels from the south — often with troops from the south.

In Sudan's virtually roadless million square miles, nobody travels anywhere unless they have to.

It is hardly surprising, then, that most northerners consider the war largely a southern problem, without relevance to their daily lives. In Sudan's virtually roadless million square miles, nobody travels anywhere unless they have to, so the remote south has no reality for most northerners. For southerners, things are different. Poverty breeds migration and many move to the north to find work as domestic servants and casual labourers. This does not foster mutual understanding. Social contact between any northerners and southerners is almost non-existent and the mutual ignorance of each others' ways of living and thinking can be staggering to a foreigner, to whom both sides earnestly confide prejudices portrayed as "facts."

Northerners attempt to explain the war often involve a "communist," but small, rebel band — the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — controlled by any and every combination of alien interests. Not only supply base Ethiopia and its ally, the Soviet Union, but also Britain, Israel, the U.S., Kenya, Uganda, voluntary agencies and Christian missionaries, especially the World Council of Churches, are all cast in the role of villains. In many northern minds, southerners are not really considered capable of conducting a war, for which, in any case, no solid causes are acknowledged. The southerners' self-image of the underdog, however, tends to produce a more personal approach: hatred is frequently the response to what is perceived

Christians are fewer than 30 per cent of the south's estimated six million people.

To this foundation have been added a host of claims and grievances. Southerners complain they are excluded from the economic and political mainstream, which is broadly true. Northerners respond that millions of northern pounds were spent in the south with little economic effect and that, during Numeiri's 16-year reign, southerners enjoyed a degree of political freedom unknown in the north — which is also broadly true.

By far the most crucial single point at issue remains the question of Islamic law (*Sharia*) which is totally unacceptable to the

SPLA and the vast majority of southerners. Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi came to power on a platform of abolishing the "September Laws," Numeiri's harsh and very personal version of *Sharia* imposed in September 1983. He himself had been imprisoned for publicly condemning them. Yet nearly one year after the coalition took office in May 1986, the Laws, though frozen, remain on the statute books.

Moreover, the government has proposed that Islam, along with Christianity and what is carefully described as "custom," should form the basis of the new constitution and legal system. "Secularism has no meaning in the Sudan," Al Mahdi declared at his first press conference last April.

But "secularism" has a lot of meaning for southerners and might constitute the SPLA's only non-negotiable demand. Not only do the rebels reject the Islamic-Christian "compromise" proposal. "A secular constitution would be best for the country," the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Juba, Paoline Lukudo Loro, told me recently. Many southerners say they fear that any reference to Islam in the constitution would be the thin end of the wedge of forced Islamisation and, at the very least, would confirm them as "second-class citizens."

Outside the fundamentalist National Islamic Front — commonly known as the "Muslim

Brotherhood" — it is not easy to find northerners who advocate Islamic law, especially among the professional elite. Two government ministers recently told me — privately — that they reject the *Sharia*. Yet, notwithstanding

an assertive campaign by the Sudanese Bar Association, it is difficult for a Muslim to publicly demand a secular system. There is an astonishing lack of awareness of the importance of this issue to the south where fear of Islamisation goes deep. Many join the rebels, fearing they have nothing to lose. "It is better to die honourably than live shamefully," is a common dictum among SPLA supporters.

The north's fundamental failure to acknowledge the southern national identity under fire, they can easily interpret "southernism" as separatism. Southerners, meanwhile, usually see the north as colonial. And, indeed, there exist many analogies with colonial attitudes contained in the fundamental assumption — albeit often unconscious — of superiority. Though not necessarily with conscious derogatory intent, southerners are often referred to as "slaves" ("abed")

Both sides have been added a host of claims and grievances. Southerners complain they are excluded from the economic and political mainstream, which is broadly true.

There are ongoing talks on conventional troops and weapons, but these are restricted to the Central European theatre, and to 19 NATO and Warsaw Pact nations.

Those talks, also in Vienna, are

were should be open to all Helsinki signatories.

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treaty member states between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural mountains," Kashlev told the Hungarian Communist Party's *Nepszabadsag* newspaper.

French diplomats in Vienna have declined comment on the reported dispute with the United States, or its outcome.

The current, much-publicised army actions might just give the government the "epemeral advantage" it needs to launch an internal diplomatic initiative instead — unless it falls into the trap of believing its own propaganda that a final military victory, and thereby a "solution," is almost in its grasp — Middle East International, London.

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Bloody execution of Mary Queen of Scots remembered 400 years on

By Michael Wise
Reuter

FOTHERINGHAY, England — A simple metal plaque marks the spot where Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded 400 years ago. There is little other sign that the village of Fotheringhay was the scene of one of the most traumatic events in British history.

The River Nene flows placidly past the remainder of the castle keep where Scotland's Catholic ruler met death at the order of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth of England, on February 8, 1587.

The 400th anniversary is being marked around Britain with ceremonies, exhibitions and lectures, and the Catholic archbishop of Northampton will celebrate a mass in Fotheringhay's Protestant parish church for the repose of Mary's soul.

The mass in the Anglican sanctuary is a sign that the political and religious antagonism the execution inspired is fading.

For years at the start of this

century, one Scotsman made a pilgrimage here to lay a wreath on the anniversary of Mary's death but eventually had to be barred from the site because of his violent language about the reigning British royal family.

"Things have cooled down a great deal," said Gordon Donaldson, Queen Elizabeth's honorary historiographer for Scotland. "Few people treat her (Mary) as a plaster saint anymore. Not many would denounce her as a ruthless criminal."

Father David Woodard, a Catholic priest whose church is near Fotheringhay, south of Peterborough in central England, believes a tragic atmosphere lingers over the meadow that now covers the place where Mary was killed.

"I've always found it the gloomiest place ever," he said. "A shadow hangs over it."

Legend has it that Mary's son, James VI of Scotland (who also became James I of England), razed the castle out of vengeance

following the unification of the English and Scottish crowns, although villagers say its stones were gradually dragged away to construct new buildings.

An inn in the next town boasts

that its oak staircase is the one Mary descended as she went to the chopping block. The outline of a crown on the balustrade was reportedly scratched into it by Mary in her final hours.

A lump of masonry, watched over by grazing sheep, is all that is left where Mary ended a 44-year-long life of romance, complexity after Elizabeth resolved to get rid of her rival for the English throne.

Mary's beauty and regal demeanour made her a 16th-century femme fatale who has captivated popular as well as scholarly interest until the present day.

Born to James V of Scotland and France's Mary of Guise in 1542, Mary Queen of Scots had the misfortune to be crowned while only a week old in the midst

Nineteen years of imprisonment followed, until Elizabeth at last signed her death warrant when a Catholic plot to overthrow her with Mary's assent was uncovered. "Suffer or strike, strike or be struck," the English queen concluded.

Mary was first buried in Peterborough Cathedral. Her son, who succeeded Elizabeth to the English throne, moved the body to Westminster Abbey in London in 1612 and erected an imposing tomb which became a shrine for Catholics deeming her a martyr.

Many Scottish historians today contend that the religious aspect of Mary's plight has been overplayed. "Mary only became attached to the Catholic church when all else failed," said historiographer Donaldson.

The idea that Mary was an ultra-Papist was rubbish."

Donaldson and others have argued that during the later years of her life, kinship and sovereign allegiance were the prime motivating factors for most Scots rather than religion.

"What is more important to most people was a loyalty to the crown, never mind that she's Catholic," said Dr. Michael Lynch of the University of Edinburgh.

Lynch said that historical work

about Mary in recent years has tended to focus on the day-to-day relations between Mary's royal household and her governing privy council.

"The spotlight is no longer on Mary as 'Mary the tragic queen' but on Mary as a ruler ... although there are all sorts of things that are cropping up."

Last month, the keeper of Scotland's National Portrait Gallery identified a 16th-century French court painting of a half-naked woman, entitled "Dame à sa toilette," as the queen who several years later held a rosary in her hand and whispered "Sweet Jesus" as her neck was struck three times with an axe.

The author of a recent book about Mary, historian Dr. Rosalind Marshall, swiftly sought to rebut this as a case of mistaken identity. "It is extremely unlikely that Mary," Marshall said, "with her great sense of her own majesty, would have allowed herself to be shown in this particular context."

Randa Habib's Corner

Bitter salts

NO one could question the wisdom behind the government measures to curb imports and to promote local products, but at whose expense? It was the government, indeed, that in the boom years allowed the import of all sorts of consumer commodities and got people used to a life of affluence and a variety of goods.

In the early 1980's we used to hear a lot about standardisation and metrology and the government's drive to improve local products. Two examples of locally-produced commodities which are afforded protection are spaghetti and table salt.

Many people, including myself, complain that locally-produced pastas, no matter how long you boil them, never seem to be cooked. I asked a pasta manufacturer: why? Basic materials, imported by the Ministry of Supply, are of poor quality and that produces low-standard outputs, he replied.

Table salt is another bitter issue. One year ago, there are reports that a JD 1 million factory in Azraq was being set up with German assistance. Now that table salt imports have been banned, it seems that our manufacturers have discovered a "formula" for producing brown salt. I, for one, use the coffee grinder to reduce the big chunks of salt into a powder. One has to improvise in these conditions.

Protection of local products through banning imports only seems to be "healthy" for factory-owners, and unless the controls of standardisation and metrology are strictly applied, the result will not be in the best interests of the consumer or the country. There are many people who preach that if protection is to be accorded to our industries they should earn it first. The only alternative would be to let the market forces of competition dictate the winner. Unfortunately, with Jordan's limited population, competition is not possible when many products are monopolised by one or occasionally two factories.

While we appreciate the financial and economic constraints that dictate protectionism, there can be no justification, moral or material, for low-standard products.

Legal challenge to Mafia faces problems

By Barry Moody
Reuter

PALERMO, Sicily — A year ago this week the Italian state launched its biggest assault on the Mafia, bringing nearly 470 alleged gangsters to trial in the heart of their Sicilian fiefdom.

The trial was the first time any such case had been tried in Palermo, the Mafia's central power base. It was widely seen as a chance to cripple the centuries-old criminal society, which is embedded in the fabric of Sicily but has spread its tentacles all over Italy, the United States and elsewhere.

This week's anniversary passed in a sharply different atmosphere, with much of the early optimism dashed. Public interest in the case, which created long queues outside the specially built, heavily fortified courtroom in the early days, has largely dissipated.

The public galleries are almost deserted and press coverage is sparse.

Much of the reason for this is that the trial has been paralysed and its outcome severely endangered by defence lawyers asserting a previously little-used legal right to have court documents read out aloud.

Many of these have been eliminated by common consent but 300,000 pages remain to be read.

Since only 5,000 have been eliminated in the three months since the lawyers adopted this tactic, the process could take years.

But under the terms of pre-sentence detention, more than 100 of the jailed defendants must be released in May unless a verdict is reached by then.

The much heralded trial risks foundering in a sea of paper while cages containing some of Sicily's most notorious Mafia suspects are emptied.

In the words of Giusto Sciacchitano, one of a pool of magistrates who handle all Mafia investigations in Palermo: "The credibility of the state is at stake."

In response, Justice Minister Virginio Rognoni is pushing a law through parliament which will exclude court sessions in counting pre-sentence detention and abolish the right to read out documents.

This move has been greeted with dismay by many lawyers who see it as unconstitutional.

But anti-Mafia magistrates say



A teacher hits back during a demonstration last week in Santiago

To encourage private schools, the government subsidises them at an average of \$10 a month per student. The subsidies are suspended when the students fail to advance to a higher grade.

U.S. girl pianist continues entertaining

By Carolyn Lumsden
The Associated Press

WEST BOYLSTON, Massachusetts — An 11-year-old girl who spoke her first word at 1 month, quoted Shakespeare at 1 year and starred in the movie "Dune" at 7 has found a new field, leaving the responsibilities

of educating our children in the hands of the private sector.

This is a mercantile approach to education, because private schools are being transferred from the ministry of education to municipal schools.

Azula said by firing the teachers, the government also is seeking to reduce the fiscal deficit to meet conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for new financial resources for Chile. The nation has a \$20 billion foreign debt.

For decades, education in Chile had been almost entirely in the hands of the state. But under the 13-year-old military regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, authorities have encouraged private education, and all public schools are being transferred from the ministry of education to municipal schools.

Education Minister Sergio Gaete said in early January, when the firings first started, that 4,000 to 6,000 teachers would lose their jobs. But five weeks later, more than 7,700 had already been fired.

"It's going to be chaos at most schools as a result of these firings," said Jorge Pavez, president of Chile's National School Teachers Trade Union. The school year begins March 9.

Fernando Azula, another teachers' union leader, said the firings are politically motivated, since "a large majority of those fired are critical of the military government."

Osvaldo Verdugo, president of

cause that's a lucky number."

Her mother, Diane Witt, said Alicia has won every piano competition she entered after only three years of classical training. But on the salary of her father, who teaches science at a junior high school, the family cannot afford to travel to faraway contests, Mrs. Witt said.

The family's tight budget has not stopped the voracious appetite for knowledge. Alicia has shown since she was a baby.

Her mother said Alicia said "Hi" at 1 month and began reading at 7 months. At 2 years old, she knew the names of every member of the U.S. cabinet and shocked an Internal Revenue Service agent who visited the house by grabbing a tax guide and reading it aloud, Mrs. Witt said.

"Sometimes it astonished you, that a child this young could do these things," said Elizabeth Harrington, who lived near the Wits.

A real pianist."

Alicia decides day to day what

to study, whether it is a chapter

from her mother's college trigonometry textbooks or a new piano technique, Mrs. Witt said.

Piano judges have been impressed with her talents.

"Superior performances in

style, grasp of each piece, interpretation," wrote M. Freiberg, a retired professor of music at Tufts University, in an evaluation during a statewide contest. "Superior technique, tone, intonation and more... superior stage presence.

A real pianist."

until a few years ago.

A published photo of the toddler engrossed in a women's magazine led to articles about her talents and appearances on television shows.

Mrs. Witt said she taught Alicia at home because her own experience teaching large classes of children of varying abilities taught her "school can really destroy that curiosity."

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But anti-Mafia magistrates say

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Lawmakers say Harrods seeking to undermine staff conditions

By Michael West
The Associated Press

LONDON — All is not well at Harrods. Despite denials by the famous London department store, 63 legislators accused its Egyptian owners last Wednesday of trying to undermine pay and conditions of the staff.

A union is threatening strike.

A House of Commons motion signed by the legislators, all members of the opposition Labour Party, accused the three super-rich Al Fayed brothers who bought Harrods in 1985 of a series of moves against the 3,800 member staff.

"The recent wage settlement was imposed without agreement, promises were not kept and attempts are now being made to increase working hours and cut overtime payments," the motion alleged.

The motion, a purely formal means of registering complaints by legislators, is unlikely to be debated by the Commons.

The 365,400-strong Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), meanwhile, said the 900 Harrods staff it represents have voted 5-1 for a strike. Union members object to a recent extension of operating hours in the evening.

Talks are continuing between union and management in hopes of averting such a strike.

John Fahey, a union organiser, said: "The company has introduced new trading hours un-



With the rise of Christianity, the church banned public baths, and for centuries in the Middle Ages most people stank.

On May 1, 1986, five men and a woman became the first people since 1909 to reach the North Pole with dogsled without resupply.

Drawings by Slobodan Walesby
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Coghlan wins indoor mile, McRae outsprints Lewis

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan used a strong finishing kick to win his fourth consecutive indoor mile race of the season, while Lee McRae's sizzling start carried him to victory over Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson in the men's dash in the U.S. Olympic Invitational Track and Field Meet at the Meadowlands Arena.

In addition, Jackie Joyner-Kersee scored a rare double, winning the women's high hurdles and long jump.

Coghlan, the fastest indoor miler in history — he set the mark of 3 minutes, 49.78 seconds in this meet four years ago — was clocked in 3:56.83. The race Saturday night was slow, because the expected pacesetter, Charles Cheriuyot of Kenya, did not go out quickly.

The victory was a record fourth for Coghlan in the race's 18-year history. His previous triumphs had come in 1980, 1983 and 1985. He had shared the meet record of three victories with Marty Liquori, the winner in 1969-70-71.

McRae, a junior at the University of Pittsburgh and holder of the world indoor best in the 55-metre dash, beat his two more heralded opponents in 6.04 seconds, the fastest in the world this year.

Joyner-Kersee, the world record holder in the heptathlon and named the outstanding women's track and field athlete of the year for 1986, led all the way in win-

ning the women's 55-metre hurdles in 7.45 and took the long jump at 21 feet, 10 inches.

Her winning jump came on her first attempt and broke the mark of 21' 8.34 set by Vali Ionescu of Romania and Carol Lewis in 1985.

Lewis finished second this time at 21' 6.

Joyner-Kersee competed in the hurdles and long jump at nearly the same time — with the long jump starting five minutes before the hurdles heats. Because of her big first jump, however, she was able to get some rest, passing two of her six attempts.

Her hurdles time smashed the meet record of 7.46, set by Stephanie Hightower in 1984.

Meanwhile, Greg Foster continued unbeaten this season, winning his fifth consecutive high hurdles race, capturing the 55-metre event in 7.01 with a powerful finish.

Canada's Mark McKoy got off to a blazing start in the hurdles and led until the final barrier, when Foster overtook him.

NCAA champion Gwen Tor-

ence of Georgia took the women's 55-metre dash in a meet-record 6.61, taking command about halfway through the race, easily beating runner-up Merlene Ottey-Page of Jamaica. The previous meet record of 6.66 was set by Alice Brown in 1985.

Maryanne Torrellas, a mother of three from Connecticut, set a world indoor best of 6:01.16 in the women's 1,500-metre race walk. Her time was more than 27 seconds faster than the previous mark of 6:28.46, set by Giuliana Salce of Italy in 1986.

A world indoor best also was broken in the men's 1,500-metre race walk, as Tim Lewis clocked 5:17.17, reducing the previous mark by more than five seconds.

Austria's Martin Toporek had set the former mark of 5:22.7 in 1983.

Michael Conley, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist, won a highly contested triple jump. World record holder Patrik Sjoeberg of Sweden could do no better than fourth, at 7.3, 3.4.

Sjoeberg had two possible excuses — he had competed in Madrid Thursday and he is not accustomed to jumping on the American indoor boardered surfaces, doing most of his jumping on the humbler European tracks.

Other men's winners included Paul Donovan of Ireland in the 3,000 metre in 7:47.95.

In other women's events, Lynn Williams of Canada captured the title in 4:35.35, edging Britain's Wendy Sly.

Finn Salonen fights off challenges to win rally

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Timo Salonen held on to his lead to win the Swedish World Championship Motor Rally by 23 seconds, fighting off a challenge from Sweden's Mikael Eriksson.

Salonen, who won here when he became world champion two years ago, took the lead from Eriksson at the 17th special stage Saturday morning and held it throughout. In route to a total time of four hours 11 minutes over the 26 stages covering 400 kilometres, he won six of Saturday's 12 stages in his Mazda 323.

Eriksson, in a Lancia Delta, lost 37 seconds on Salonen on that crucial 17th stage.

"It was a hard fight all day, and speeds were very high," Salonen said, adding: "This was a big victory, and an important win for the team."

"It was the first win for the four-wheel drive, turbo-charged Mazdas, made in specification to new rules introduced this year."

Officials said the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) had examined all cars carefully before the race started, Friday, and spot checks were made by FISA officials as late as Saturday morning.

Behind the leading duo, reigning world champion Juhn Kankunen of Finland rose to third place, 15 seconds ahead of Sweden's Ingvar Carlsson. Kankunen's Lancia was 1.46 behind Salonen. Carlsson was 2.01 behind in a Mazda.

Markku Alen, another Finnish driver, nearly lost his fifth place at the final stage, when his Lancia developed engine problems and lost 1.16 to stage winner Eriksson.

Kankunen took the world championship lead on 27 points after having finished second in this year's first event in Monte Carlo. Italian Lancia driver Massimo Biasion, winner there, shares second place with Salonen on 20 points.

Connors to meet Edberg in U.S. indoor final

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Jimmy Connors used his experience to beat Sweden's young Mikael Pernfors 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 6-3 to earn a spot opposite top-seeded Stefan Edberg in the U.S. indoor tennis championship finals.

The 34-year-old Connors defeated Pernfors, 23, with a steady baseline game and a flashy assortment of shots at the net during the two-hour, 47-minute match on Saturday night.

Edberg was extended to a second-set tie-breaker by Brad Gilbert, but was in control with his serve-and-volley game during much of his 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) victory.

Connors, ranked eighth in the world, will be after his eighth U.S. indoor singles title when he meets second-ranked Edberg in the noon CST Championship match.

"I'm on a roll," Connors said. "I'm hitting the ball now as well as I've ever hit the ball. I'm moving and working and concentrating. I took a layoff and I've come back ready to play."

Edberg, who has lost five of six of his previous meetings with Connors, said he feels his game is much better now.

"I'm playing more consistently. I'm a little bit quicker and I'm playing some of the big points harder than last year. It should be quite interesting tomorrow," Edberg said.

Gilbert agreed that Edberg will be very tough to beat. "He's moving better than I've ever seen him move and I don't think there's anyone in the game now that has a better first volley or overhead," Gilbert said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wimbledon downs Charlton in soccer

LONDON (AP) — Wimbledon warmed up for next weekend's F.A. Cup fifth round tie with favoured Everton by beating Charlton Athletic 2-0 in an English First Division soccer match played Sunday. In a four match, Kevin Gage opened the score with a 29th-minute penalty and Nigel Winterburn added a second goal nine minutes from the end. The result did not affect the leading placings in the first division but plunged Charlton into greater relegation trouble.

Soviet runner breaks Coe's record

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet runner Igor Lotorev set a world indoor record for the 1,000 metres on Saturday, clocking 2 minutes, 18 seconds at the Soviet Winter Cup athletics competition, the TASS news agency reported. The previous record, set by Sebastian Coe of Britain, was 2.18.58, TASS said.

Bulgarian Donkova sets hurdle mark

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova has run 7.74 seconds to set a world record for women in the 60-metre hurdles, Bulgaria's state news agency BTA reported. BTA, in a dispatch received in Vienna on Sunday, said Donkova set the new mark Saturday at an indoor track meet in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. BTA said the previous record of 7.75 seconds belonged to B. Jahn, of East Germany.

Italian takes new WBC title

LUCCA, Italy (AP) — Unbeaten Italian Francesco Damiani of Italy captured the newly-established World Boxing Council junior heavyweight title by knocking out American Eddie Gregg in the first round Saturday night. Damiani, 28, shook Gregg with two powerful right hooks and finished him before the second minute of the scheduled 12-round bout with a combination series. Spanish referee Tony Perez stopped the fight as the 33-year-old New Yorker was defenceless.

Skating record broken twice in a day

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Geir Karlstad of Norway regained the men's world speed skating record in the 10,000 metres at the World Championships Sunday, only minutes after Leo Visser of the Netherlands broke it. Karlstad was clocked at 14 minutes, 3.92 seconds, almost eight seconds faster than Visser's 14 minutes, 11.63 seconds. Almost exactly a year ago, Karlstad finished the 10,000-metre in 14 minutes 12.14 seconds, also a record at the time.

Norman sets tourney record

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Greg Norman, playing at his menacing best, stormed to a nine-stroke win and his fourth Australian Masters title at Huntingdale Golf Club. The British Open champion's 19-under-par 273 broke the tournament record of 11 under set by West German Bernhard Langer two years ago. But bogeys at the last two holes for a final round of 70 deprived him of a personal best winning margin — his biggest to date is 10 shots. Queenslanders filled the first three places with Peter Senior firing a last-round two-under-par 71 to finish 10 under on 282, edging Vaughan Somers by one stroke.

Norwegian wins \$40,000 ski race

SNOW SUMMIT, California (AP) — Jarle Halsnes of Norway defeated his brother in the finals Saturday to win the giant slalom event at the \$40,000 Winterfest professional ski race. Halsnes edged his brother, Jarle, by .246 of a second in the second run to win the \$5,000 first prize. Jarle had taken the first race of the finals by .178 of a second. The sixth event on the U.S. pro tour continues Sunday with the finals of the slalom race.

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Mandlikova upset by Garrison in California

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — In a match that included a point penalty, an injury time out and a brief flood of tears, top-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia was upset in the semi-finals of the \$150,000 California Women's Tennis Tournament.

The favourite lost to third-seed Zina Garrison of the United States 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, in two hours and 15 minutes on Saturday night.

Garrison will meet unseeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in the finals.

Hanika defeated an ailing Kathy Rinaldi of the United States, the second seed, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, in the other semi-final.

Mandlikova made a shaky start, surviving three break points in the first game, but it was not until the ninth game that the American was able to break Man-

INVITATION TO TENDER GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR LOCALLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDANTS UNRWA - JORDAN

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Jordan announces an invitation to tender for a group medical insurance plan to cover its locally recruited employees and their dependants.

The plan covers medical treatment by doctors in their private clinics or at the employees' residences. It also covers treatments at hospitals including surgical operations in accordance with conditions and benefits established in the Agency's Special Insurance Plan.

Interested insurance companies which have experience in handling similar projects are invited to obtain copies of the forms of invitation to tender and the tender special conditions from the Field Personnel Officer in the Field Office HQ., Tla' Al Ali near Rashid Tea' Secondary Boys Sch., behind Utaibi Gas Station, P.O. Box 484, Amman. These tender documents are available at JD 20 which is non-refundable.

Tenderers must submit with their tenders a bank guarantee of JD 50,000. Tenders not supported by this bank guarantee will not be considered.

The agency will notify successful and unsuccessful tenderers of its decision with respect to their tenders as soon as possible after the tenders are opened. It reserves the right to cancel the tender, to reject any or all tenders and to award the contract without disclosing the reason or reasons therefore.

Tenders will be accepted in sealed envelopes to be put in the tender box in the office of General Services Officer at the agency's office at the above address up to 11.00 hours on Thursday 5 March 1987.

World records tumble at skating tourney

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Soviet skater Nikolai Gulyaev won the men's World Speedskating Championships on Sunday, an event marked by a spate of shattered world records on all but one distance.

Gulyaev, 21, won the 1,500-metre event, setting a new world record, finished second on the 500 metres and 5,000 metres and seventh on the 10-kilometre event.

Oleg Bozhev of the Soviet Union held the second-place position in the final standings, while Michael Hadschieff of Austria was third.

World records were broken on the 1,500 metres, where Gulyaev set the new standard at 1 minute 52.70 seconds, the 5,000 metres, with Dutchman Leo Visser clocking 6 minutes 47.01 seconds on Saturday, while Geir Karlstad of Norway broke the 10,000-metre record, finishing in 14 minutes 03.92 seconds.

It was the first-ever World Speedskating Championship held on an indoor 400-metre track.

During the 10-kilometre event, Visser successfully attacked Karlstad's year-old record of 14 minutes 12.14 seconds, finishing in 14 minutes 11.63 seconds.

Earlier Sunday, Albarelio sur-

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Please call: 774457

Connors to meet Edberg in U.S. indoor final

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Jimmy Connors used his experience to beat Sweden's young Mikael Pernfors 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 6-3 to earn a spot opposite top-seeded Stefan Edberg in the U.S. indoor tennis championship finals.

The 34-year-old Connors defeated Pernfors, 23, with a steady baseline game and a flashy assortment of shots at the net during the two-hour, 47-minute match on Saturday night.

Edberg was extended to a second-set tie-breaker by Brad Gilbert, with a steady baseline game and a flashy assortment of shots at the net during the two-hour, 47-minute

U.S. government bank to upgrade programme

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's Export-Import Bank announced last week it will begin competing with government agencies in other industrial countries to help the Third World maintain and operate development projects.

Visitors to the Third World nations often complain of seeing expensive equipment unused and deteriorating for lack of local skills or spare parts.

The aid will be in the form of a guarantee for as much as 85 per cent of a loan by a commercial bank, which enables the commercial bank to charge a lower interest rate.

The Export-Import Bank will offer to lend its own money in three situations: When there is competition for the job from another industrial country, with support from its government; when the U.S. company is a small business, or when the job is to start a project for which the bank has already lent money.

Loans will be for no more than five years. They will cover salaries and benefits of Americans who go abroad to work on such a job, their travel on U.S. ships or planes, expenses of the contractor at the home office and some spare parts.

"Operations and maintenance contracts represent a new and growing service export field in which American engineering companies are now competing," said Mr. John Bohn Jr., president of the bank. "The (operations and maintenance) market in de-

veloping countries is estimated at \$1 billion annually and growing."

Ms. Ann Frey, a spokeswoman at the Export-Import Bank, said there was no breakdown of the areas where the biggest markets would be. She suggested they could be found in countries which built the most new plants in the 1970s, and now find the projects not giving the results expected.

The bank said U.S. contractors would bring a project to its full potential, leave a permanent system in place and train local people to take over.

Trade restrictions hurt consumers

On trade issues, meanwhile, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman Daniel Oliver said that restrictions on foreign trade cost Americans \$50 billion a year. He called on consumer advocates to join in an effort to reduce trade barriers.

"The cost of saving jobs through import restraints far outweighs the benefits," Mr. Oliver told the annual assembly of the Consumer Federation of America.

He said consumer groups which support trade barriers in an effort to protect American jobs are working against consumers, and they "can't be both in favour of consumers and in favour of protection."

The FTC's staff found that, for example, in the automobile industry, protection costs consumers over \$200,000 a year for each job saved.

Airbus rolls out A320

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — In an elaborate display of European solidarity, Airbus Industrie on Saturday unveiled the latest in the range of aircraft it hopes will help secure a major place in the world commercial jet market.

The roll-out of the Airbus A-320 came against a background of acrimonious exchanges between the United States and Europe over the conditions under which the European consortium operates.

French Premier Jacques Chirac said the American decision to make its complaints to a trade forum rather than impose retaliatory measures was "a step toward armistice" instead of a trade war.

But he and others reiterated previous warnings that any aggressive action by the administration of President Ronald Reagan to protect the U.S. aerospace industry would run up against a solid European front.

"We will not allow political agitation to distance us from the road to success which we have chosen," said Mr. Franz Josef Strauss, president of Bavaria and McDonnell Douglas Corp.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More Qataris join civil service

DOHA (OPECNA) — More Qataris are being employed in the country's state departments, with nationals now representing 46.4 per cent of total civil service staff, the head of the government's personnel department, Sheikh Khattab Al Dafa, said here. He told the Al Arab newspaper that up to September last year, 13,652 Qataris held jobs in various state concerns out of a total civil service force of 29,401. He pointed out that the figures excluded employment statistics in the army, police and such establishments as the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation, the state monetary agency and the General Hamad Hospital. Sheikh Al Dafa stressed that the present employment trend for Qataris in government departments was continuing, and that more Qatari women were getting jobs.

China increases gold production

PEKING (R) — China's gold output last year rose by 10.6 per cent over 1985 due to a change in policy that allowed private mining of the precious metal, the New China News Agency reported. The extra gold helped reduce a big trade deficit, the agency said. Industry sources conservatively estimate China's gold output at 65 tonnes a year, fourth in the world after South Africa, the Soviet Union and Australia.

Sanyo develops new solar cells

TOKYO (AP) — Sanyo Electric Co. of Japan said it has developed the world's first translucent amorphous solar cells, which generate electrical power from the sun's energy while letting light pass through too. Sanyo said the new solar cells can be used, for instance, in automobile sunroofs to power the car radio with solar energy. The new cells also can be used for home windows, skylights and outdoor and indoor greenhouses. Sanyo Electric is now sounding out prospective users including the housing and automobile industries about interest in applying the solar cells for their products. The cost of generating electrical power with the new cells is 1.5 times that for conventional amorphous solar cells. The new solar cell is not being supplied to individual users, the company said.

Bangladesh to build nuclear plant

DHAKA (AP) — Bangladesh plans to build a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant north of Dhaka near the river Ganges, Energy Minister Anwar Hussain said. He told parliament the project has been approved by the government, and that negotiations on engineering and technical aspects have begun with unidentified donor countries and agencies. The project would cost an estimated \$500 million to \$700 million, he said. The plant will be built in Rooppur I Kushtia district, 334 kilometers north of Dhaka. India has indicated its willingness to use energy produced by such a plant for its power-starved eastern state of West Bengal. Two months ago, Bangladesh commissioned a one-megawatt experimental plant at Savar, near Dhaka. No date has been set for construction of the new plant.

Morocco resumes economic planning

RABAT (R) — Morocco is preparing a new five-year plan after a two-year break in economic planning forced by financial uncertainty.

Planning Minister Rachid Ghazouani told a recent cabinet meeting the 1988-92 plan would aim at four per cent annual growth.

The kingdom's last five-year plan ended in 1985 and had no immediate successor as Morocco struggled with a foreign debt now put at around \$14 billion, bigger than its gross domestic product (GDP) in Geneva.

French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Noir said the dispute will be considered at a special GATT committee on aeronautical affairs meeting March 2 in Geneva.

The United States and the four European partners in the Airbus consortium — France, Britain, West Germany and Spain — are at loggerheads over U.S. claims that the Europeans subsidise the development costs of the group's civil jetliners and are competing unfairly with Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp.

Four per cent growth is a compromise between the need to continue an International Monetary Fund-inspired stabilisation programme and to expand production to create jobs for a population of about 24 million

growing by 2.6 per cent a year.

The 1981-85 plan sought to relaunch the economy and optimistically forecast 6.5 per cent annual growth. But it ran into trouble, when still mostly-agricultural Morocco was hit by prolonged and severe drought.

The stabilisation programme was agreed in 1983 to tackle a sharp deterioration of the current account, leading to a rescheduling of the foreign debt.

GDP growth was sluggish in 1983 and 1984 at 2.3 and 2.1 per cent. It picked up to 4.3 per cent in 1985 after good rains, Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada told parliament recently. A re-

cord 1986 cereals crop then boosted growth to 6.2 per cent last year, according to provisional estimates.

The new five-year plan, under discussion in various ministries and expected to be ready to go before parliament in the autumn, will stress regional development, agriculture and private enterprise, Mr. Ghazouani said.

According to the rather vague guidelines made public so far, it will also emphasize close consultation between the state, the public sector, local authorities and the private sector.

"We are trying to draft a plan sufficiently flexible to be adapted in fluctuating circumstances during its life span," Mr. Ahmad Alami, the plan's deputy director, said.

King Hassan has defined the

plan's priorities as:

— Modernising the rural world and fighting the desert.

— Encouraging small- and medium-sized firms and strengthening the private sector.

— Promoting regionalisation for a well-balanced national development centred on job creation.

Regionalisation appears to be the key and the government will try to spread economic development more evenly. It is at present heavily concentrated on a 120-kilometre long strip from Rabat to Casablanca, the economic capital.

Successful regional development would slow down the exodus to the towns which are already bursting at the seams.

World Bank pledges \$6b soft loans to Africa

some \$12.4 billion.

During the 1986 financial year, the IDA provided \$1.1 billion in soft loans for Africa, while the World Bank extended \$511 million in credits.

In Yamoussoukro, the seven member nations of the West African franc zone (UMOA) called for better loan terms from international creditors rather than debt rescheduling.

There finance ministers heard Togo's Komlan Alipui call perpetual debt rescheduling an "absurdity." He urged donors to lighten repayment terms and provide fresh capital.

"There is a limit for rescheduling a debt beyond which going to

the Paris Club (of official creditor nations) makes no sense," he said. Togo's foreign debt of nearly \$1 billion has been rescheduled twice since 1979.

Mr. Talata Eugene Dondasse, financial resources minister of landlocked Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest countries, said his nation's debt service payments this year would reach about 20 per cent of forecast revenues.

The seven nations of UMOA, whose CFA franc is pegged to the French franc at the rate of 50 CFA to one French franc, are Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Corn prices continue downward spiral

CHICAGO (R) — U.S. corn futures, which have been spiralling stubbornly downward, sank to their lowest prices in 15 years last week as dwindling demand weighed on a market struggling to deal with record supplies.

Despite hopes that the sagging value of the U.S. dollar would boost exports of American farm products, corn prices have yet to display a glimmer of strength. Worse still, market analysts see little hope for a recovery.

Corn futures in March fell to \$1.44 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, a price that was last seen before the Soviet Union began buying U.S. wheat in 1972.

Basically, analysts say, too much corn and too little demand are driving prices down.

The Department of Agriculture said domestic corn stocks totalled 10 billion bushels (261.7 million tonnes) at the end of the calendar year, and the U.S. ex-

port market is half what it was at the start of the decade.

Reflecting these circumstances, corn prices have fallen about 45 cents a bushel since September.

"This has been a bloodletting for American farmers," said Mr. Dan Markey, a grain analyst in Chicago with Agrianalysis, a company that advises farmers on market strategy.

Most farmers are protected by government price support programmes, but those have been a two-edged sword, said Mr. Dick Loewy, a grain analyst in New York with Prudential Bache Securities.

Support programmes provide basic needed income for farmers struggling to survive, but they create an artificial price floor as well, Mr. Loewy said. The artificially high price has been a major factor in reducing American exports.

"Support prices over time artificially kept prices high, and we lost our market share," Mr. Loewy said.

The Department of Agriculture projected corn exports in the 1986-87 marketing year, which began on Sept. 1, will total 1.1 billion bushels (28.8 million tonnes), down from 1.2 billion (31.5 million tonnes) the previous year and 2.8 million the department said.

The greater value of European currencies has not helped the U.S. export market and, said Mr. Loewy, competing exporters such as Brazil and Argentina adjust their currencies to match the lower dollar, consistently undercutting the U.S. price.

The extra push to low price was provided by an increase in sales by farmers, traders said. They noted that farmers are eager to sell corn now because spring planting time is approaching and, once they begin field work, they will not have time to take their corn to the market. They also need cash to buy seed and fertiliser.

partment of Agriculture projected South Africa will export three million tonnes this year, up from 2.75 million last year. The members of the European Commission will increase corn exports to 8.2 million tonnes from 8.7 million, the department said.

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Turkish Cypriots begin economic programme

NICOSIA (R) — Interest rates at Turkish Cypriot banks doubled last week as part of a programme to liberalise the economy and integrate it with that of Turkey, officials said.

They said the credit rate went up to 48 per cent from 24 per cent and that on savings to 40 per cent from 22 per cent, roughly the levels applying in Turkey.

The measure was called for in a protocol signed in December by

Mr. Dervis Eroglu, prime minister of the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal.

The Eroglu government has also approved a bill to encourage investment in tourism — yet to go to parliament — and is working on a reduction of import duties and corporation tax and the introduction of value added tax, the officials said.

present

set by the Turkish central bank.

The economic programme caused the collapse of Mr. Eroglu's first government last year because his leftist coalition partner objected to the austerity elements in it. His reformed administration, however, has an eight-seat majority in the 50-member assembly and appears able to push the package through.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

PERIT

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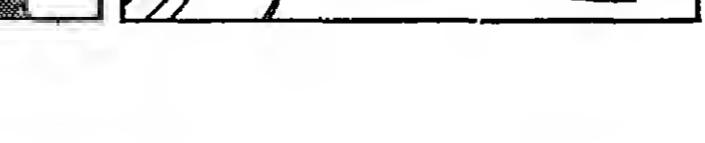
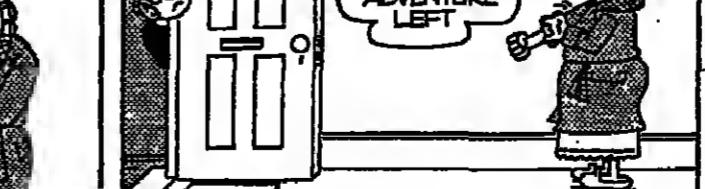
NITIVE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer with:

(Answers tomorrow)



Yesterday's Jumble: QUEST DUMPY INJECT FROTHY

Answer: What the karate champ turned restaurant owner specialized in—CHOPS

Irish polls could produce cliffhanger

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland's general election campaign is heading towards a close finish with frontrunner Charles Haughey's popularity slipping away while his two main rivals move closer to coalition.

Irish politics in the 1980s has been dominated by two sharply contrasting characters — abrasive self-made millionaire Haughey at the head of Fianna Fail and unassuming intellectual Garret Fitzgerald leading Fine Gael.

Each has been prime minister twice. Polling day on Tuesday looked like being another head-to-head battle until Fianna Fail dissident Desmond O'Malley emerged at the head of the breakaway Progressive Democrats as a kingmaker out to break the two-party mould.

An opinion poll in the Sunday Independent showed how close the contest could be. The opposition Fianna Fail party was tipped to win 45 per cent. Prime Minister Fitzgerald's Fine Gael 30 per cent and the Progressive Democrats 13 per cent.

No Irish government has been

Deadlock said broken in Sri Lankan peace talks

COLOMBO (AP) — Senior government sources reported Sunday a breakthrough in stalled efforts to negotiate an end to four years of ethnic strife.

It also said army operations against Tamil insurgents were ending and a fuel blockade against the rebel-dominated north was likely to be lifted. No date was set.

But Tamil militants in their northern stronghold of Jaffna city told AP they expected the army to launch a major offensive to recapture Jaffna. They warned of aerial bombardment and heavy civilian casualties.

"What is the point in talking when the government is bent on a military solution?" asked "Kittu," a commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful rebel group of the Tamil minority.

The "Tigers" are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland to be called Eelam, in the north and east, where most Tamils in this island nation live. But they indicate they would settle for sweeping autonomy and the merger of the north and east.

Conflicting reports have fuelled confusion over the political situation and efforts to get the

U.S. aid package for Pakistan hits stumbling

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's \$4-billion aid package for Pakistan poses a dilemma for Congress as members try to balance concerns about the country's nuclear programme and drug record against its assistance to Afghan rebels.

"We're going to take a very careful look" at the aid proposals "with a view toward determining the extent to which they advance basic American interests," said Representative Stephen J. Solarz, an opposition Democrat and chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia.

A big issue will be reports that Pakistan is on the verge of developing — or has already developed — the capability to explode a nuclear bomb.

Some also are concerned about Pakistan's role as a major source of illegal heroin into the United States and the country's record on human rights.

At the same time, there is strong support in Congress for the Afghan guerrillas who have

Haughey of being ambiguous and ambivalent over Northern Ireland, which has emerged as a late election issue.

Anglo-Irish accord

Mr. Fitzgerald's greatest achievement during four years in office was negotiating the 1985 Anglo-Irish accord which gave Dublin a consultative voice in the running of the volatile British province, scene of sectarian strife between Protestants and Catholics.

Mr. Haughey has expressed constitutional reservations about the accord, objecting in principle to an Irish government accepting British sovereignty over any part of this divided island.

IRA's chances

Another ingredient in this election has been Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is fighting to end British rule in

U.S. 'pressuring' small states to maintain ties with Taiwan

PEKING (R) — The United States pressures Panama and other small countries to maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not China, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama told reporters Sunday.

Raul Montenegro, a member of Panama's legislative assembly, said a majority of its members favoured establishing relations with Peking.

Panama is one of only 23 countries, most of them in Central and South America, that recognise Taiwan as the sole legitimate government of China.

Mr. Montenegro said he hoped the fact that Democrats were now in the majority in the U.S. Senate would help relieve Panama of this pressure and allow his country to have relations with Peking.

Mr. Montenegro is part of a delegation of legislative assembly members visiting China, the second such visit within seven

Top party official dismissed in Ukraine

MOSCOW (R) — A Communist Party official in the Soviet Ukraine has been dismissed following the unlawful arrest of a reporter who exposed abuses of power, Ukrainian party leader Vladimir Slobodchitsky said Sunday.

Mr. Slobodchitsky, also a member of the ruling Soviet party politburo, said in the party newspaper Pravda that Boris Goncharenko, party chief for the Voroshilovgrad region, had been sacked after "gross violations" of the law in the region.

These included the arrest on buggulism charges of reporter Viktor Berklin in the city of Voroshilovgrad last July. It followed publication of an article in which he revealed abuses of power by police and local officials, he said.

The dismissal of Mr. Goncharenko, 60, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee in Moscow, followed the sacking last month of A. Dichenko, a senior Ukrainian KGB security police officer, for his role in Mr. Berklin's arrest.

Mr. Goncharenko, Voroshilovgrad party chief since December 1971, had earlier been implicated by Pravda in allowing widespread corruption.

Mr. Slobodchitsky said in a front-page article that several other officials, including Voroshilovgrad city party chief O. Kotlyar and R. Zverev, the head of the region's city council, had been severely reprimanded.

Pravda said no action had been taken on Mr. Berklin's arrest for more than four months.

Leaders of left-wing opposition

Northern Ireland.

It has abandoned its 65-year-old policy of abstentionism and pledged to take up any seats it might win this time.

Forbidden to appear on state radio or television under an anti-subversives broadcasting ban, Sinn Fein has opened its own pirate radio station in Dublin to broadcast its revolutionary message. Still, its chances of any seats are slim.

Economic issues

The main theme of the campaign has been the economy with one in five jobless, thousands of young people queuing to emigrate to the United States, the national debt doubling in four years and income tax up to 58 per cent.

Political commentators have issued dire warnings about Ireland ending up as Western Europe's only Third World nation with its main export being people.

IRA's chances

Another ingredient in this election has been Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is fighting to end British rule in

Bangladesh set for strikes

DHAKA (R) — Opposition parties have called for a nationwide six-hour strike on Monday as fundamentalist students launch a week of protest because two youths died in bomb blasts.

Opposition leaders Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina have called the strike to demand the resignation of President Hossein Mohammad Ershad.

"Ershad must go now because he has proved himself unworthy of the presidency ... by failing to maintain law and order and to fulfil people's aspirations," Sheikh Hasina told a rally of her Awami League on Sunday.

Begum Khaleda said: "He should bow out as a disgraced ruler for he has pushed Bangladesh to the brink of economic collapse, ruined politically, the system and scuttled efforts to restore a flawless democracy."

The opposition campaign against Mr. Ershad came amid angry protests over increased transport fares, in which police killed one student and more than 100 were injured.

Thousands of passengers were stranded when transport owners took their vehicles off the roads after students and anti-government activists hurled nearly 20 vehicles and damaged more than 50.

Two fundamentalist Muslim students were killed and nearly 100 wounded on Saturday in this year's worst political violence.

Police said two students died and 50 were hurt on Saturday when petrol bombs were tossed at a demonstration being staged by the militant Islamic Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamat-e-Islami party, at the southern port city of Chittagong.

The nationalist government in Taiwan, driven there after defeat by the Communists on the mainland in 1949, has said repeatedly it will not change its 38-year-old policy of calling itself the Republic of China.

The United States recognised Peking in 1979 but maintains official trade and commercial ties with Taiwan.

Chittagong remained tense overnight and police said authorities had told them to reinforce the town to prevent further violence.

Barnala sacks minister for supporting priests

NEW DELHI (R) — Punjab Agriculture Minister Harbhajan Singh Sandhu was dismissed from the state cabinet on Sunday for having complied with an edict of Sikh priests by joining a new Sikh party opposed to the state government.

Reports said Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray dismissed Mr. Sandhu on the advice of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala for joining the unified Akali Dal party, dominated by Mr. Barnala's hardline opponents.

The speaker of the state legislature had served a notice on Mr. Sandhu demanding that he explain why he should not also be disqualified from that body for defecting to another party.

Mr. Barnala has denied a statement by the priests that up to 17 of his 47 supporters in the Punjab legislature had deserted him in response to the edict.

The 63-year-old chief minister told reporters in the state capital, Chandigarh, that there had been no large scale desertions from his party.

"My government and party are intact," he said.

Pro-U.S. Centam leaders meet on new peace drive

SAN JOSE (R) — Four Central American presidents were to meet Sunday to discuss a new regional peace proposal that diplomats say calls for a truce between U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra rebels and the Sandinista government.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has not been invited to join Presidents Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, Jose Asanza Hoyo of Honduras and Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, all U.S. allies, and Guatemalan leader Vinicio Cerezo, who professes neutrality.

The initiative by Mr. Arias focuses on solutions for civil strife in Nicaragua, which the three pro-U.S. countries criticise as the major source of regional instability.

Costa Rica and Honduras have refused to talk to Nicaragua until it withdraws an International Court case accusing them of helping anti-Sandinista rebels.

"It looks bad if they're all three but one," said one U.S. official.

COLUMN 10

Snakes bring out the animal in humans

HAMMOND, Louisiana (R) — Turtles can expect courteous treatment from motorists but snakes on the road had better watch out, according to an American scientist. David Shepherd, biology professor at Southeastern Louisiana University, told reporters he had placed rubber snakes and turtles on highways in a three-year programme to study motorists' reactions.

Several drivers stopped to rescue the rubber turtle, the professor said, but motorists tried to destroy the snakes with everything from shotguns to machetes. One policeman swerved his car to run over a fake snake on the side of the road before reversing to run it over again and again. He then stopped and was about to shoot the snake's head off before Shepherd emerged from nearby bushes to stop him. "The snake has always been the bad guy, all the way back to the Garden of Eden, and it doesn't appear that people are viewing it any more kindly now," Shepherd said.

Dying AIDS victim weds

NEW YORK (AP) — A man dying of AIDS and his fiancee had their Valentine's Day wish come true Saturday when they exchanged marital vows in New York City's famous St. Patrick's Cathedral. "I don't have words to say how I'm feeling," a tearful Maria Hefner said after the couple took their religious vows.

They were married in a civil ceremony three years ago. David Hefner, 38, appeared pale and emaciated as he went through the ceremony. His wife, wearing a gold wedding dress with a gold bow in her hair, wiped away tears after the service before a large crowd. The couple kissed for a crowd of reporters and cameras before climbing into a limousine outside the church and leaving. The wedding became a controversial issue when Catholic Church officials first approved the couple's request for a wedding in the Manhattan cathedral. Hefner, a Protestant, described himself as a former homosexual. He was diagnosed nine months ago as having acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Mrs. Hefner, 33, is a Catholic. She has tested negative for the AIDS virus.

London broom cupboard for sale at £36,500

LONDON (R) — For sale: converted London broom cupboard overlooking exclusive Harrods department store, with radiator and folding bed. Price: £36,500. And prospective buyers have been rolling up in a city where house and flat prices have soared in recent years and are still spiralling. The sixth-floor studio apartment in an exclusive block in fashionable Knightsbridge measures 5½ feet by 11 feet (1.65 metres by 3.35 metres). A tiny tiled space off the single room houses a toilet, washbasin and shower. "It's not quite big enough to swing a cat in — half a cat maybe," said estate agent Angus Macmillan. "But price is determined by location and convenience and we have had no shortage of people interested." The same money would buy three small houses in the Wolverhampton area of the industrial Midlands and leave a few thousand sterling change.

China to market anti-hijack gun

PEKING (AP) — China has developed a lightweight pistol for fighting hijackers and terrorists which uses special bullets that do not penetrate glass or airplane cabin walls, the Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. The report said the pistol, which is being used by China's armed police, has a "powerful antipersonnel capacity but it will cause no damage to aircraft." It quoted Li Weiru, director of the China Light Weapons Institute, as saying the bullets will stick to cabin walls and window glass "like a cake." The weapon weighs 380 grammes, holds six bullets, has an effective shooting range of 15 metres and is waterproof and heat-tolerant, the report said.

"When this happens in an agrarian society, it is usually only a matter of time until it translates into a decline in per capita income, and into the need for food imports" and growing debt to pay for them.

The report notes that these conditions can lead to explosive social situations when the number of poor people grow faster than food production. "Many of the countries with rapid population growth have declining incomes, whereas almost all those with minimal or zero population growth are experiencing income rises," the report said.

Without new land to plow, raising food production by modern seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and equipment is not easy. It thus comes as no surprise that per capita grain production is declining in some 40 developing countries.

"In population growth, the report noted, India is worth studying. There are many occasions where you can see that persevering with a small suit immediately holds no future. In that case, east around for greater pastures.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
41,000 Transocean Media Services, Inc.

FIND THE FOURTH TRICK

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH ♦ A Q 8 † 2 ♦ Q 10 4 ♦ K Q J 10 8 7
WEST ♦ 9 6 3 † J 9 7 6 ♦ K J 6 5 3 + 2
EAST ♦ K 2 ♦ Q 10 8 3 ♦ 8 7 2 ♦ A 9 5 3
SOUTH ♦ 10 7 5 4 ♦ A 9 4 3 ♦ A 9 ♦ 6 4

North-South reached a fair contract of four spades. Note that South's rebid of two hearts, a new suit by responder, was forcing for one round.

Even if for no other reason than partnership trust, it is usually correct to return partner's suit. However, if you can see that doing so will hand declarer his contract, feel free to branch out.

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It was obvious to one and all that

A few countries could strongly affect world environment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A handful of countries could play a significant role in determining the condition of the world environment, the Worldwatch Institute said in its annual study released Saturday.

The private organisation said three countries own 48 per cent of the earth's tropical forests, which are vital to preserve the world's ecological balance. At the same time, it said three countries are responsible for half the fossil fuel burned.

"For some of the major adjustments facing humanity, a relatively small number of countries hold the key to success," the study said.

The organisation's fourth annual "State of the World" said Brazil, Indonesia and Zaire forests could store enough carbon

to influence the "greenhouse effect," the warming of the earth caused by carbon dioxide and other gases from industrial activity.

Forests are necessary to "recycle" carbon dioxide into oxygen, which sustains animal life.

"Unfortunately, Brazil and Indonesia are both pursuing national resettlement programmes that will reduce the remaining rain forest area, and Zaire has shown little leadership" in forest management, the report said.

The burning of fossil fuels is the source of most of the carbon dioxide. Worldwatch noted that the Soviet Union, China and the United States account for half of emissions and two-thirds of world coal reserves.

In population growth, the report noted, India and China accounted for 35 per cent of world population increase in 1986; Nigeria and Egypt accounted for a quarter of the

births in Africa; and Mexico and Brazil had more than half of Latin American births.

Many countries are vulnerable to environmental, economic and social disaster because they cannot reduce population growth.

The demographic middle ground has almost disappeared," said the survey, noting that no region of the world is growing at a rate between 1.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent per year.